NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

To save space we have heretofore strung these notes one on end of another, but complaints have frequently been made that they are not so readable or so easily referred to in this shape, and we have thought it advisable at length to alter their form a little.

Windsor.—There is some talk in the town council of building a new town-hall, with the ultimate view of removing all the houses between the castle-entrance and the north side of the church. The necessity of laying out something like 800*l.* on the roof of the present town-hall appears to have led to the suggestion; but as to the ultimate end in view, it has been maintained (wrongly according to a correspondent of the *Windsor and Eton Express*) that it would cost 100,000*l.* to carry it out.——The Victoria and Albert bridges, crossing the Thames from the Home Park, on the north side of the Castle, and by the Bone Stream, were to be opened for general traffic on Monday last. The commissioners had also notified that the communication across Datchet bridge would then be stopped, and the old bridge taken down.

Brighton.—The contractors for the erection of the new race-stand have been busy of late with the works. The main building, which measures 64 feet in length by 36 in depth, will contain on the ground-floor a refreshment-room, 60 feet by 14, with a covered terrace 10 feet wide. The saloon on the first-floor will be capable of affording accommodation to upwards of 1,800 persons to view the races; in addition to which, a gallery of 60 feet will be erected at each end, and in continuation to the Stand, each gallery being capable of accommodating 1,000 persons. There will be several retiring rooms for ladies. The total frontage, including the galleries, will be 184 feet, and of the betting-ring, 341 feet.——The Pavilion committee have altered their original intention to let the ground in Castle-square and the plots adjoining on either side by tender, and determined to dispose of it by auction. The ground in Castle-square is regarded as a very eligible site for building purposes.——A marble monument, designed and executed by Mr. Pepper, a resident sculptor, has been placed in the chancel of St. Peter's Church.

Romsey.—The old brick flooring of the chancel of the Abbey Church is being removed, to be succeeded by a paving of encaustic tiles. The old railing before the communion table is to be replaced by a new one, as the table itself is.

Caerleon.—Two curious relics of ancient art were lately found here. They are sculptures in ivory, representing, it is said, King Arthur and his Queen, who made Caerleon a favourite retreat. "The male figure," says a Liverpool contemporary, "represents the king in the full investiture of his royal dignities, while the simple guise and appropriate grace of the queen are in strict accordance with the pastoral life which the female portion of the court were doubtless accustomed to in that enchanting spot, or possibly symbolise the lowliness of her origin and the humility of her mind. They have been shown to our principal local antiquarians and archæologists, all of whom consider them to be genuine specimens of ancient British art."

Birmingham.—During the past week the new baths have been attended as follows:—Swimming bath, 4,400; first-class men's warm baths, 700; second-class warm baths, 390; first-class cold baths, 30; second-class cold, 130.

Worcester.—A local paper, while stating that the town-council had adjourned till last Tuesday, then to take into consideration the plans sent in for the new Market-house, says, "Before they decide, however, upon which they will adopt, it seems they will have to determine whether there is to be a new market-house at all—a matter which we had supposed to be settled. The plans, seven in number, now lie on the table of the council-chamber for inspection, and it will be seen directly that the Crystal Palace has suggested the idea for the roofing of more than one of them. We should fancy the competition will lie between Nos. 1, 2, and 6. The Markets' Committee have reported generally in favour of the last, which has a central transept with convex roof after the fashion of the great glass-house, and side aisles lighted by lanterns; but the committee say that if this be adopted a good deal of alteration must be made in the details. Much attention seems to have been paid towards making this plan as complete as possible; but a doubt is expressed whether it could be erected for the sum mentioned, but this the gentlemen who look so sharply after the public money will no doubt have an eye to. No. 1 is simple, and very much after the fashion of the recently-erected garden market. It wants elegance. No. 2 proposes an iron and glass roof of a single span, similar to the one stretching over the Lime-street station at Liverpool, with a span there of 153 feet. The span here is about 70 feet, so there can be no doubt about a sufficiency of strength. This, of course, has the advantage of leaving a clear space beneath uninterrupted by columns, and admitting of any arrangement of the stalls which the committee might think best. Had it been intimated in the advertisements for designs, that the committee intended to consult the opinion of a competent judge like Mr. Hopkins, there would doubtless have been more plans sent in, as many professional men dislike the idea of sending in designs for the decision of a mere lay committee."

Preston.—The foundation stone of the new tower and spire to be erected at St. Peter's Church here was laid on Tuesday in last week. They are being erected from a design, and under the superintendence of Mr. Mitchell, of London and Sheffield, architect. The general features of the church are of the decorated or second pointed period. After several designs had been submitted to the trustees, it was finally decided that they should be placed at the south-east corner. The dimensions of the tower are 22 feet square by 80 feet high, divided into three stages, the first forming a chapel, having a groined stone roof, with ribs and bosses, and a floor laid with Minton's encaustic tiles, in suitable devices and inscriptions. The second story will be appropriated to a belfry, and the third to a bell chamber. The tower will be terminated by four canopied and crocketted pinnacles at the angles, with flying buttresses joining the tower to the spire, which will be carried 85 feet high, crocketted at the angles, and have spire lights, and terminate with a finial and weather vane. The whole height of the tower and spire, exclusive of the weather vane, will be 165 feet. The church at present has no chancel, but it is contemplated, should funds be obtained, to erect one. The local *Guardian* was to have an engraving of the whole in this week's number.

Carlisle.—Builders, says the local *Journal*, have scarcely if ever been so briskly employed in Carlisle as at this moment. In addition to an unusual number of new dwelling-houses, now in the course of erection, Messrs. Ferguson and Chambers have commenced laying the foundation of an extensive building for power-looms; Messrs. M'Knight are about to make large additions to their woollen manufactory in Willow-Holme; a lot of eight or ten shops with houses attached are to be erected in Bank-street—leading from English-street to Lowther-street, thus filling up the entire of the vacant plot of ground, and making a much required thoroughfare between these streets.

Winchester.—Out of about twenty plans submitted for a new Independent Chapel in this city, those of Mr. W. F. Poulton, of Reading, architect, were chosen by the committee. The front is to be in the Early English style: the centre projects considerably, with an ornamental turret at each angle, and a triplet window. A single lancet light is inserted in each of the receding walls. The body of the chapel is entered by three doorways, and the galleries, schools, and vestry by two side-doors. The roof is surmounted by a lofty lantern turret. The shape of the building is an elongated octagon. Raised seats to accommodate 300 children run round the chapel, and afford means of access under them to the Sunday-schools at the back. A series of columns and arches, front the raised seats, and the space between the columns is spanned by a light roof. The chapel, when complete, will seat 1,000 persons. The schoolroom will contain 500 children. Over the schoolroom apartments will be erected for the master and mistress of the school. The chapel and schoolrooms are to be heated with hot water. Special attention has been given to the ventilation of the building by means of a shaft.

Chesterton.—The foundation-stone of the church of Chesterton, near Newcastle, in Staffordshire, was laid on Thursday, the 5th inst. The church, which is Early English in style, will accommodate 485 persons, including children, all on the ground-floor: and will consist of a nave, north aisle, children's chapel, and steeple on the south side (which will have a spire of considerable elevation), chancel, and chancel aisle, out of which will be taken the vestry. Messrs. Ward and Son, of Hanley, Staffordshire Potteries, are the architects; Messrs. A. and G. Holme, of Liverpool, builders.

Birkenhead.—Within a very recent period, 100,000 yards, and more, of land have been sold here at considerably enhanced prices. Upwards of 30,000*l.* have been paid for land sold on time bargains.

Rugby.—Nearly 3,000*l.* have now been subscribed towards the erection of a new church for 1,000 sitters, one-half free, at a cost of 5,000*l.*

Cruckerne.—Mr. Wm. Hoskins, of North Perrott, having offered 1,000*l.* towards the erection of an additional church, and some inhabitants having purchased a site, it is proposed to build and endow a church for about 400 persons, two-thirds, at least, free. The expense is estimated at 1,300*l.* The site cost 300*l.*, and occupies more than half an acre of land, a portion for burial ground. An anxiety to prevent the architectural appearance of the interior of the parish church from being in a great measure destroyed by the erection of side galleries, as well as to supply the poor of the parish with free-seats in church, induced Mr. Hoskins to make the liberal offer just noted.

Nottingham.—The "Bellevue Reservoir," of the local Water-works Company, was opened on Friday in week before last. It is situated to the north-east of Mansfield-road, on the highest eminence within a circle of many miles. At the instance of their engineer, Mr. Hawksley, the company determined to form this tank on a new principle, viz., to arch it over, to render it as clean as possible, so as to make it, in fact, a gigantic subterranean water cistern. A deep square excavation was made near the centre of the table-land on the summit of the hill, within which walls of brick-work were constructed, 160 feet long and 80 feet wide. Then, in parallel rows, were raised shafts of masonry, along which were turned 265 arches, which entirely cover the whole reservoir, with the exception of two ordinary trap-doors. The floor was afterwards puddled with soft clay, on which is placed a layer of bricks. The height within, from the floors of the arches to the roof, is uniformly 12 feet. The reservoir is 50 feet higher than the top of Derby road, whence it obtains its supply, and level with the top of Trinity Church spire. In forming it, half a million of bricks have been used, and the various works have cost 6,000*l.* Mr. Jalland officiated as architect during its construction; Mr. Smart was the contractor; and Mr. M'Kirk the builder. A circular boundary wall of stone has been erected round the works, and immediately over the surface of the reservoir the ground will be laid down with grass: from thence there is a gentle slope, leading to an enclosed pleasure walk round the central mound.

Boston.—The committee of the Athenæum, in consequence of the institution rapidly increasing in numbers, have resolved on advertising for an eligible site, on which to erect a new building for the purposes of the society. The edifice is to be very commodious, a provision being made that it shall not be less than 100 feet by 40 feet.

Grimsby.—The docks are rapidly assuming their ultimate form. The arches now in course of construction, forming the walls around the

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